

FROM AURORA TO GEOSPACE

a research exhibition by Hanna Husberg and Agata Marzecova

Galleri Öst, The Royal Academy of Fine Arts, 14.3 - 26.4.2020

From Aurora to Geospace is developed as part of *Towards Atmospheric Care*, a long-term art-led research project by Hanna Husberg, visual artist, and Agata Marzecova, researcher in ecology, photography and new media.

Over the last three centuries, Fennoscandian territories have emerged as one of the most important *natural laboratories* for conducting scientific research on the functioning of the atmosphere as well as the whole geosphere. These territories are therefore places where global atmospheric imaginaries are shaped. Through a focus on geospace, or near-Earth space, and the ionospheric radar infrastructures located in northern Sweden, Norway and Finland, the project *From Aurora to Geospace* explores how historical interest in visible atmospheric phenomena, notably the aurora borealis, has contributed to the uncovering of invisible processes and phenomena that are made perceptible only with the help of geoscience. Rather than observing atmospheric phenomena as such, the project explores the instruments, historical circumstances, events and ideas that make them visible, hence contributing to the construction of novel atmospheric imaginaries and sensibilities.

The exhibition combines large format photography of the EISCAT ionospheric research infrastructure in Sodankylä, Kiruna, Tromsö and the prototype of the new generation 3D radar in Kilpisjärvi; a tape diagram of Earth's magnetosphere; aluminium prints of historical and scientific imagery and an essayistic film. The film script draws on conversations with scientists and researchers and uses academic and historical sources as well as scientific materials brought up by the people Husberg and Marzecova met, such as the prevalence of diagrams for shaping how we imagine invisible environments out of reach to human senses.

In their long-term collaboration, Husberg and Marzecova seek to examine the overlapping boundaries between the aesthetic, science and politics of air and the atmosphere. Air and the atmosphere are here understood as techno-ecological phenomena that require critical engagement with perception, representation and materiality. Their interdisciplinary practice seeks to develop a multiplicity of outcomes that allow sharing the problematics of air across different platforms, context and audiences. This project has been developed through residencies at Ars Bioarctica Residency, (Finnish Bioart Society, Kilpisjärvi, 2018-19), Torpet, Pro Artibus (2019) and NKF residency, Sthlm (2020).

The *From Aurora to Geospace* exhibition is produced in the context of Hanna Husberg's Bernadotte Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and has received funding from Arts Promotion Centre Finland.